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Alberta
RECREATION AND PARKS

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Alberta
RECREATION AND PARKS

Office of the Minister

Room 107 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 403/427-3672

March 31, 1989

The Honourable Dr. David Carter
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Dear Sir:

It is my honour to submit the Thirteenth Annual Report of Alberta Recreation and Parks for the year ended March 31, 1988.

Respectfully submitted,

Norm A. Weiss
Minister
Alberta Recreation and Parks

Alberta
RECREATION AND PARKS

Office of the Deputy Minister

16th Floor, Standard Life Centre, 10405 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 3N4 403/427-3948

March 30, 1989

Honourable Norm A. Weiss
Minister
Alberta Recreation and Parks
107 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Sir:

It is my pleasure to present the 13th Annual Report of Alberta Recreation and Parks, for the year April 1, 1987 through March 31, 1988.

The very successful 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary was the highlight of this period. I am proud to report that the Olympic Secretariat at Alberta Recreation and Parks successfully completed coordination of the Government of Alberta's involvement in these Games.

The Olympic Games have left an important legacy to the people of Alberta. The legacy includes world class facilities for recreation training and competition in winter events, international attention and profile, and the promotion of participation in winter sports among the young people of Alberta and Canada.

The 1988 Olympic Winter Games boosted the number of visitors to Kananaskis Country to an estimated 3.4 million in 1987-88. These figures reflect the outstanding outdoor recreation experiences available in Kananaskis Country.

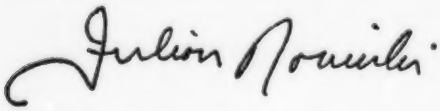
During the report year, we continued to improve the tourism potential in our provincial parks system. Construction and redevelopment projects were undertaken in 14 provincial parks and provincial recreation areas. Major emphasis was placed on completion of work at Sir Winston Churchill and Rochon Sands Provincial Parks and Franchere Bay Provincial Recreation Area.

The department administers grant programs aimed at strengthening community recreation opportunities and facilities, and provincial sport and recreation associations in Alberta.

An outstanding example of a special partnership in Alberta's sports community during 1987-88 was the opening of the Percy Page Centre in Edmonton, which provides a consolidated office space for recognized recreation and sport associations in Alberta. This is a unique arrangement, coordinated by Recreation and Parks.

Alberta Recreation and Parks is proud to be contributing to the healthy lifestyle of Alberta citizens and visitors. The department boasts a most comprehensive range of recreation and park services for the benefit of all residents of our province.

Respectfully submitted,



Julian J. Nowicki
Deputy Minister

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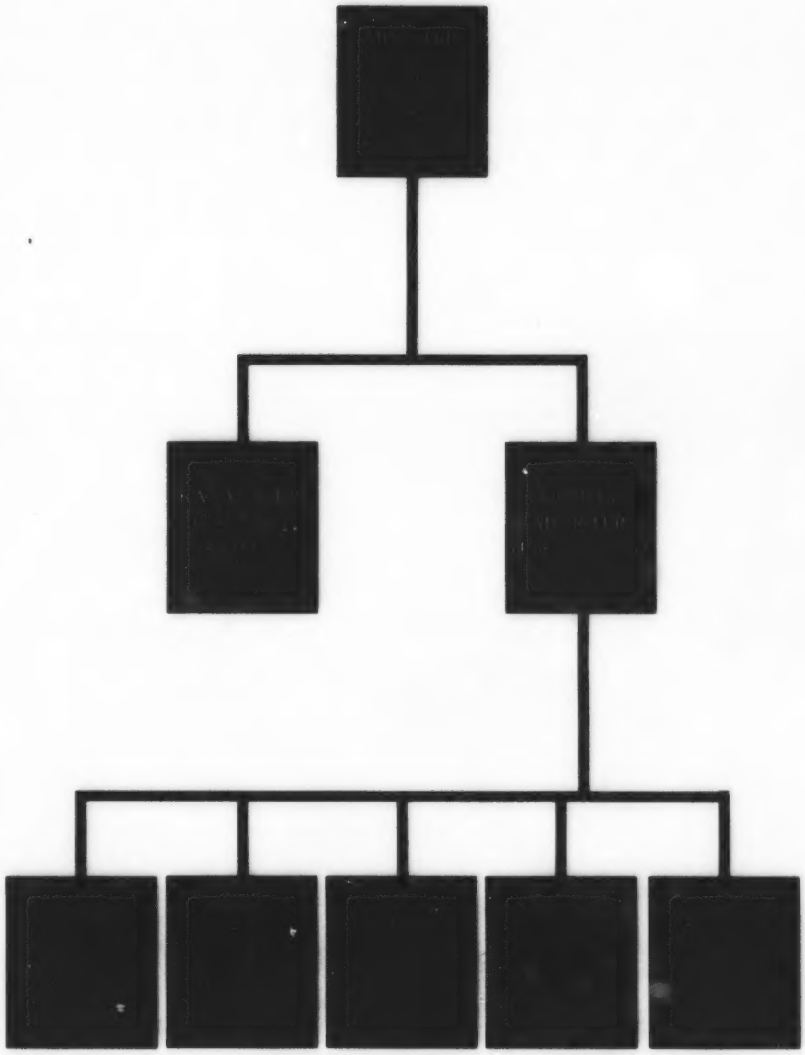
ALBERTA RECREATION AND PARKS

ORGANIZATION CHART



PLANNING SECRETARIAT

Introduction

The Planning Secretariat initiates and coordinates strategic planning throughout the department, and assists decision-making at the executive management level. It reports directly to the deputy minister.

Its main functions include: strategic planning, management, and analysis; coordination of market and planning information; legislative research and planning; integrated program and systems planning; and direction and counsel in public communication.

Overview

Strategic Planning

Among its achievements, the Planning Secretariat:

- prepared a department strategy stating the department's short to medium-term priorities.
- assumed corporate management responsibility for the initiation and development of plans for the Ministry in the following six strategic areas:
  - community recreation
  - leisure education
  - outdoor recreation/open space
  - leisure industry
  - recreation and parks leadership
  - sport development .
- spearheaded the ministry's participation in the provincial government's lottery legislation and disbursement program.
- participated in the development of the provincial government's position paper on social policy: *Caring & Responsibility, A Statement of Social Policy For Alberta*.
- supported the interdepartmental Deputy Ministers' Heritage Resources, Recreation and Tourism Committee.
- completed, in conjunction with the Alberta Sport Council, an evaluation of six sporting events, including the Alberta Summer Games and Alberta Winter Games.
- developed a ministerial Recreation and Parks priorities statement.

Department Management Planning and Legislation Review

The Planning Secretariat assisted the department's senior executives in management planning by:

- providing support services to executive committee meetings;
- coordinating development of the departmental fee increase proposal.
- preparing, for Executive Committee review, a draft department planning process and procedures report; and
- organizing the inaugural meeting of managers from throughout the ministry.
- coordinated departmental legislation review and development.

Public Communications Services

Public Communications Branch provides professional support for the development of materials to provide information about the department's policies, programs and services.

The branch is staffed by public relations specialists assigned to Alberta Recreation and Parks by the Public Affairs Bureau. The staff ensure that all communication materials, including advertising, video and printed products, meet Alberta government standards.

In completing its responsibilities, Communications Branch prepared 59 news releases and feature articles for the media, placed 82 advertising programs, handled more than 500 print and graphic design projects, and assisted with the organization of several special events in provincial parks.

These are just a few of the major activities involved in providing communications support for the many varied programs and services coordinated by all branch offices of Alberta Recreation and Parks.

OLYMPIC SECRETARIAT

Introduction

The Olympic Secretariat was established in March, 1983 to coordinate the Alberta Government's involvement in the XV Olympic Winter Games held in Calgary and vicinity February 13-28, 1988.

1987-88 was the final year of preparations for the Games. Plans for government participation at the Olympics were concluded, and services necessary for this participation were established.

Overview

Alberta Profile '88

The Olympic Secretariat, with support from the Alberta Public Affairs Bureau and other government departments, developed a strategy to promote Alberta at the Olympics. The Profile '88 program concentrated on utilizing the international media to communicate positive information on Alberta. Information on tourism, leisure, business, and other sectors was provided through information kits, vignettes, slides, storylines and tours.

A visitor information centre was established in Calgary with general information on Alberta, including brochures and specially designed Olympic pins and buttons. Approximately 200,000 people visited the Calgary centre prior to and during the Olympics.

A tribute program for athletes and countries was based upon significant and/or meaningful achievements during the Games. Twelve countries and their athletes were celebrated in posters and in daily advertisements in Calgary newspapers. Fifteen thousand sets of posters were distributed primarily to international audiences.

A distinctive Alberta theme and logo were incorporated into the Profile '88 program. The theme helped establish a strong Alberta presence and project a positive image at the Olympics.

Government Participation

The Olympic Secretariat identified opportunities to recognize the Alberta Government's substantial contributions to the Games.

Hosting at the Games was a vital part of the Olympic Secretariat's responsibility. It assisted with three major functions prior to the Games and with many informal events during the Games. The Secretariat coordinated appearances by Alberta's elected officials at many events. It also acquired the necessary accreditation, invitations, tickets, accommodations, gifts, and provided transportation services in Calgary and area.

KANANASKIS COUNTRY

Introduction

Kananaskis Country is a 4,000 square kilometre (1,620 square miles) year-round, multi-use recreation area in southwestern Alberta. It includes three provincial parks and 42 recreation areas. The Kananaskis Country management is responsible for an additional nine satellite areas (three campgrounds and six picnic areas or trailheads) outside the main boundary.

Kananaskis Country is Improvement District #5, the local municipal authority. Capital development and operation is the responsibility of its Managing Director who reports to the Minister of Recreation and Parks.

Overview

The principal responsibility areas, each managed by a branch director, are:

Planning and design

The Planning and Design Branch is responsible for the development and implementation of policies, standards, plans and designs, and the project management of the planning and design stages pertaining to recreation within Kananaskis Country.

Construction and maintenance

The Construction and Maintenance Branch is responsible for planning, organizing and managing construction related to capital development projects. It is also responsible for the major maintenance and redevelopment of facilities, and the inspection of non-government projects in Kananaskis Country and Improvement District No. 5.

Operations

The Operations Branch is responsible for all aspects of outdoor recreation programs and administration in Kananaskis Country.

Finance and administration

The Finance and Administration Branch is responsible for financial systems in Kananaskis Country, as well as contract administration, and financial audit of leased operations. Its mandate includes reviewing and updating policies and procedures.

Communications and public information

Communications and Public Affairs, assigned by the Public Affairs Bureau, is responsible for the development of public relations, advertising, marketing, and distributing information.

The 1988 Olympic Winter Games helped boost Kananaskis Country visitors to an estimated 3,400,584 in 1987-88. Despite poor weather in July, 1987, Kananaskis Country maintained its 1986-87 camper numbers with 444,487 camper nights recorded.

Other pertinent facts:

- Some 67,600 people attended interpretive events at the nine campgrounds where programs are offered.
- More than 126,700 people visited the six information centres.
- Maintenance and service was required for 2,946 campsites in 30 campgrounds, 1,131 day use sites and 1,306 kilometres of trails.
- Kananaskis Country responded to 254 emergencies including searches, fires, water rescues and climbing accidents.

Kananaskis Country hosted a number of Olympic events, includ-

ing: downhill skiing at Nakiska at Mount Allan, and cross-country skiing at the Canmore Nordic Centre. Other special events throughout the year included dog sled races, white water kayak competitions, orienteering events, trail ride competitions, cross-country ski races, and biathlon events.

New Facilities

Kananaskis Village Centre, an information centre and support facility, was opened at Kananaskis Village Resort. Staffed by the Kananaskis Village Resort Association, the Village Centre has an information desk, post office, lounge, meeting rooms, whirl pool, showers, change rooms, exercise room, and a winter base for ski patrol operations. A privately-operated convenience store and a sports equipment rental facility are located in the Centre.

Adjacent to Kananaskis Village, construction began on 10 kilometres of hiking/cross-country ski trails which join with the partially-developed Ribbon Creek trail system.

Reclamation began on a gravel pit and construction camp site near Ribbon Creek. A large picnic area with hiking, bicycle and cross country ski trails and a fishing pond is planned for the site.

After doubling its capacity the previous year, William Watson Lodge operated at peak capacity with 7,703 overnight guests and a waiting list of 595 parties.

Boundary Stables, a privately-operated horse rental facility, began operation on leased land in August, 1987. In addition to hourly horse rental on trails, and overnight pack trips, the operator offers horse-drawn sleigh rides in the winter.

RECREATION DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Introduction

The Recreation Development Division promotes recreation development in Alberta. It provides financial assistance, information, and consulting services to municipal recreation authorities, sport and recreation associations and other voluntary organizations in the province.

The division provides grants to municipal recreation authorities for general capital development, facility operations and programming. Grants are provided to provincial associations for program and organizational development.

The division provides consulting services to municipalities and to provincial recreation and sport associations to encourage recreation development. Information is provided on leadership development, leisure lifestyle development, facility operation, program planning, association development, and on the recreation trends, practices and opinions of Albertans.

Overview

Reorganization to achieve operational and administrative efficiency occurred in several areas in 1987-88. For example, the Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities sections were consolidated.

The division delivered the Community Recreation/Cultural Grant Program which provided $16 per capita to assist volunteer community groups and municipalities provide recreational and cultural services. Over $38.9 million was distributed through this program.

The division continued its international sport exchange programs with Hokkaido, Japan; Heilongjiang, China; and Kangwon, Korea.

It assisted in the data collection, public review, and writing of draft reports for the ministry's priorities document.

The division continued to offer planning support to the Urban Parks and Municipal Recreation/Tourism Area programs.

Administrative Support Branch

The Administrative Support Branch provided management support in reporting division expenditures and personnel utilization, and processing grant and supply and services payments. The branch helps to review grant recipients' accounting statements. It also provides records management and budget coordination, development of administrative operational procedures, and other general services. The branch advises the assistant deputy minister and branch directors on administrative matters.

In 1987-88, the branch monitored the division's budget. It helped process grant applications and account for $52.5 million in grants.

The branch continued to develop and implement a division-wide records management system and a micro-computer assets information reporting system. Work also continued on the implementation of divisional administrative operational procedures.

Planning Support Branch

The Planning Support Branch is responsible for operational planning and the design and implementation of ongoing divisional planning, data collection, and applied systems programs. The branch advises the assistant deputy minister on planning and systems in the division, and assists other branches on program planning and evaluation, and applied systems matters.

A triennial public opinion survey on recreation practices and preferences was a major project in 1987-88. The branch continued to produce the "Look at Leisure" information series based on this survey. It also conducted specific analyses of the data for other groups within the department. Work began on a major paper

concerning trends in recreation, sport, and fitness.

During 1987-88, branch planners provided support to the ministry's priorities development project, both in the report writing and in conference organization and operation. They also worked as chief planners with the other division units in strategic planning.

The third major responsibility is applied systems. The branch used standard database, spreadsheet, and word processing packages to develop and implement systems for conference registration, asset inventories, budget tracking, event calendaring and electronic messaging.

Provincial Recreation and Sport Services Branch

The Provincial Recreation and Sport Services Branch supports a full spectrum of recreation, sport and fitness services in the province.

This branch works with the ministry's two Crown corporations: the Alberta Sport Council, and the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

The branch provided $1,957,000 in operating grants to 115 recognized provincial recreation and sport associations for administrative support, leadership development, and programs. Exchanges between Alberta and the sister provinces of Heilongjiang, China; Hokkaido, Japan; and Kangwon, Korea, were supported. Team training and selection grants were awarded to 15 provincial sport associations involved in preparing for the 1989 Canada Summer Games. Support was made available to provincial sport associations involved in the 1988 Arctic Winter Games, at which 78 Alberta athletes, coaches and officials participated.

The Percy Page Centre, located in Edmonton, provided administrative support services to 99 provincial sport and recreation associations.

The Blue Lake Centre continued to diversify its leadership services through the development of a major youth leadership program and other volunteer development services.

During the past year, leisure lifestyle development was a major focus of the branch. The branch provided support to the provincial and regional fitness and leisure lifestyle resource centres, and further developed the "Alberta Come Alive" project. Increased funding for the Fitness Appraisal Certification and Accreditation program, the development of a federal-provincial mechanism for cooperation, and continuing involvement in Canada's Fitweek were other accomplishments which supported leisure lifestyle development.

The branch provided financial assistance to Alberta organizations which hosted 43 national and international events. It also offered 490 workshops which served 6,100 volunteers and professionals in fitness, leadership, association management, community coaching, and general lifestyle development.

Funds were made available through the following grant programs:

- Provincial Recreation Development
- Association Development
- Hosting Major Events
- International Sport Exchange
- Regional Leisure Lifestyle Festivals
- Outdoors Alberta
- Canada Games/Western Canada Games/Arctic Games
- Fitness Development

Community Recreation Branch

The Community Recreation branch encourages and supports recreation and sport services at the community level. The branch works closely with municipal authorities to develop new directions and approaches to improve community-based recreation and park systems.

The Community Recreation Branch has three sections: Recreation and Sport Facilities, Regional Recreation Services, and Community Recreation Services.

The branch managed the government's major recreation grant program known as the Community Recreation/Cultural Grant Program. This program provided $38.9 million to municipalities and community organizations for:

facility development, management and operation; the development and operation of recreation programs and services; and planning. The branch helped clients prepare grant applications and conducted workshops and seminars to acquaint municipalities and community organizations with the program's regulations, guidelines and procedures.

Capital grants were provided to numerous communities to acquire land for parks and for park planning, design, and construction through the Municipal Recreation/ Tourism Areas Program.

Operating grants assisted communities with the operation and maintenance of recreation and sport facilities, and open spaces. Funds were available through three programs:

- Urban Parks
- Municipal Recreation/Tourism Areas
- Capital City Recreation Park Program.

By conducting and sponsoring numerous workshops, the branch helped recreation practitioners, recreation board members and municipal councillors develop municipal recreation and parks delivery systems.

The branch provided consultation services and developed or updated resource information on recreation and parks administration and facility management. Topics included: board/council development; executive, staff and organization development; volunteer development; leadership development and program planning; recreation and parks administration; community recreation planning bylaw review; regional recreation and cost sharing; and needs assessment studies. Funding for recreation leaders and special needs was provided through the Community Recreation Development Grant program.

The branch assisted communities to develop, manage and operate recreation and sport facilities by providing workshops and resource materials on specialized topics of facility construction, design, operation and maintenance.

During 1987/88, there was a high demand for consultation services in building operations, energy management, cost efficiency and the operation of mechanical systems in swimming pools, arenas, curling rinks, and community halls. Intermediate and advanced training programs for arena and swimming pool operators were provided.

PARKS DIVISION

Introduction

The Parks Division coordinates planning, development and operation of provincial parks, provincial recreation areas, ecological reserves and wilderness areas.

The division was formed in June, 1987, by amalgamating the former Design and Implementation Division and the Operations and Maintenance Division. This reorganization improved the department's ability to respond more effectively to evolving government priorities.

Overview

The division studies public needs for outdoor recreation opportunities, examines and acquires lands with high recreation and conservation values and plans, designs, develops and operates facilities. A major focus of the division in 1987/88 was the upgrading and redevelopment of existing provincial parks and provincial recreation areas.

The division delivered recreation and conservation services in 58 provincial parks, 43 provincial recreation areas and three wilderness areas.

Provincial parks and provincial recreation areas hosted 1.07 million individual camper nights (defined as one person camping for one night) in its 9,076 campsites and 45 group camping areas. An additional 4.31 million visited these areas during the day.

In responding to public needs emphasis was placed on the conservation of heritage and natural resources through the establishment of 10 ecological reserves.

The division continued sound resource conservation through "hands on" resource management projects. Vegetation management enhanced the life of the forests in Moonshine Lake Provincial Park and Cypress Hills Provincial Park.

A continuing division challenge is to optimize parks' operations without affecting service to the public. The division transferred 23 low demand sites to local municipalities and community groups, and increased the number of seasonally-staffed operations. In seasonally-staffed parks, peak season (May-September) duties are performed by seasonally employed staff located on-site and supervised by permanent staff in nearby field offices. During the off-season, basic services and recreational opportunities are provided by staff from nearby parks.

The volunteer Campground Host program provided additional information and client services at 15 provincial parks. As well, the division supplied learning resource manuals as a special environmental education service. These manuals assisted educators to utilize provincial parks as outdoor classrooms.

The private sector provides park services in some of Alberta's provincial parks and provincial recreation areas. Two campgrounds in provincial parks were run by private operators in 1987. In these campgrounds the division retains its stewardship role for the resource base and continues to provide security and resource management.

The division played a key role in evaluating public and private-sector campground operations and recommended important changes.

Although the Parks Division was not directly involved in the 1988 Olympic Winter Games, many Parks Division staff supported the operational requirements of the government during the Games.

Divisional Support Branch

The Divisional Support Branch provides financial and administrative support to the operations and programs of the Parks Division. It also provides consultation and assistance in tendering and contract activities, as well as information systems for management decision-making control. The Branch is responsible for coordinating the division's records management program and fixed assets inventory, operation of the management information system, and development of administrative policies and procedures.

The branch provided expertise and advice on financial and contract administration, coordination of the annual operating and capital budgets, and monitoring expenditures and manpower. Coordination of the division's staff development activities was also provided.

The branch continued to provide word-processing services and supervision of the division's microcomputer services.

Program Development Branch

The Program Development Branch assesses public needs and desires for outdoor recreation opportunities, undertakes long range planning, develops procedures material, represents the department on interdepartmental public land-use planning matters, and manages the ecological reserves program.

The branch manages the issuance of dispositions for recreational and non-recreational land uses on lands administered by the department. It also administers disposition agreements and the collection of fees, and maintains a registry of dispositions.

The branch coordinates the acquisition of private and Crown land required by the department, and the designation of such lands under the proper legislation. A comprehensive registry of lands administered by the department is also maintained. The branch develops regulations, policies, and procedures on land management and formulates land-based programs.

In 1987-88, program plans were prepared to direct the capital development program, with continued emphasis on upgrading and redeveloping existing sites. The branch continued its research into park user needs and recreational activities.

The branch represented the department on several interdepartmental planning and land management programs throughout the province.

Public demand for auto access camping was measured by a province-wide survey.

The branch was a major contributor to the development of implementation strategies arising out of the ministry's long-range planning.

The branch continued to provide support to the Wilderness Areas and Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee. Major initiatives of the ecological reserves program were the establishment of the Marshybank, Crow Lake, Whitemud Falls, Silver Valley, Athabasca Dunes, Goose Mountain, Kootenay Plains, Kennedy Coulee, Wainwright Dunes and Hand Hills Ecological Reserves.

Project Management Branch

The branch coordinates the department's capital development program, which encompasses two major areas: park reconstruction, and park construction and redevelopment.

Specific tasks include: the development and management of site concept planning and detail design and construction contracts; and capital renovation, reconstruction, upgrading and construction projects performed primarily by contracted firms, with assistance and supervision from government staff.

Park construction and redevelopment involves major expansion of existing programs and facilities. Typical projects included new or expanded campground and day use areas, utility systems, roads and trails. Projects for 1987-88 included reconstruction of existing provincial parks and provincial recreation areas.

Reconstruction projects were undertaken in some provincial parks and provincial recreation areas in 1987-1988. The major emphasis was completion of work at Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park, Rochon Sands Provincial Park, and Franchere Bay Provincial Recreation Area.

Construction and redevelopment occurred in Cypress Hills Provincial Park, with the second year of a three-year program for development of a ski hill.

Professional and Technical Services Branch

The Professional and Technical Services Branch provides specialized services to the division. The branch is responsible for: developing, monitoring, and maintaining design standards and guidelines for provincial parks and provincial recreation areas; cost estimating system and services; and the department's facility replacement program. Specialized technical services and sign services for provincial parks and provincial recreation areas are also provided, with emphasis on utilizing private sector contractors.

The branch evaluated, monitored, and updated all aspects of the division's planning, design and technical standards. It continued to ensure that these standards reflected park user needs.

Cost-estimating for capital project estimates and the division's facility replacement program was maintained and applied as required.

The branch continued to supply professional services in architecture, landscape architecture, horticulture, and engineering to support the capital development program. The private sector assisted in this area.

Legal land surveys and other surveying services, large-scale and small-scale topographical maps, photographic mosaics, and aerial photography for provincial parks and provincial recreation areas were also provided. Many graphic design products, special use maps and other specialty products were created.

The branch continued to plan, design, and fabricate different types of informational and directional signs for provincial parks and other recreational lands administered by the department.

Field Support Branch

The Field Support Branch provides research, operational support and consultation to the division and four regional offices in three areas: maintenance; security; and resource management. Assistance is also provided to the visitor services program.

The branch is organized into four sections of professional and technical expertise: operational planning; maintenance engineering; security services; and equipment and materials.

There were several major accomplishments during the fiscal year.

- The branch continued to investigate increased private sector involvement in the delivery of park services. It established criteria to select potential sites for campground privatization, and researched other areas for private sector involvement.

- To improve service delivery to park visitors, evaluations of service delivery systems such as the campsite reservation system and self-registration system were conducted.

- The branch continued to coordinate the development of resource management standards. The standards were tested in several parks where resource management planning was underway.

- Security and public safety training was provided for permanent and seasonal park rangers. Its aim was to ensure safe, enjoyable recreation environments for park visitors, as well as training in special areas such as boat safety. The branch also helped coordinate the Federal-Provincial Park Conference's park officers course held annually in Hinton.

- In addition to managing ongoing divisional management information systems such as the Park User Statistics Collection System and the Security Services Management Information System, special studies to improve the reliability of off-season visitation statistics were conducted.

- The branch continued its involvement in coordinating the implementation of a formal equipment management system, coordinating divisional central vehicle services requirements, and analyzing equipment utilization and operating cost data. Vehicle operator training courses emphasizing preventative maintenance, were developed and delivered to divisional staff.

Visitor Services Branch

This branch coordinates many services to potential and actual visitors to Alberta's provincial parks and provincial recreation areas. Services include information, interpretation, environmental education and coordination of volunteer opportunities.

In 1987-88, the branch emphasized improvements and innovation in public services without increasing operating costs. In some cases, the goal was a reduction in operating costs while retaining the level of public services.

A media project management system to improve project control and product costing was developed and implemented.

Customer services were improved through detailed and project specific market analyses. Proposed products are reviewed with park users to ensure high quality appropriate services are provided.

Continuing from last year, improved information for visitors was a priority. Notable developments included a new display at Cypress Hills Provincial Park, an identity package for Parks Division volunteers, brochures encouraging winter use, and redevelopment of the interpretive trail at Midland Provincial Park.

Learning resource manuals to assist teachers and group leaders were improved. New learning activities and resource materials were produced for Midland and Dinosaur Provincial Parks. This innovative learning system is very cost effective, provides a wide range of outdoor education opportunities to students and groups across the province, and encourages use of parks during the fall, winter and spring.

Volunteer involvement continued to be a major focus. The division works with community groups to establish volunteer cooperating associations which support provincial parks. Associations have been established at Fish Creek and Vermilion Provincial Parks. As well, the range and number of volunteer opportunities throughout the system was expanded. Policies and procedures to guide a wide range of volunteer management activities are now in place.

Northern Region

The Northern Region of the Parks Division administers 14 provincial parks, three provincial recreation areas, and a provincial historic site. The regional office is located in Valleyview.

The private sector provides janitorial services, caretaking, campground maintenance, solid and liquid waste disposal, lawn and horticultural maintenance services, fire hazard reduction and forest management.

Volunteers assisted in winter recreation programs at Hilliard's Bay, Young's Point and Queen Elizabeth Provincial Parks.

The Campground Host Program was provided at Carson-Pegasus, Moonshine Lake, and Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Parks. Campsite Operations Limited (North) continued to successfully operate and maintain the campground at Carson-Pegasus Provincial Park.

The region assumed the administration of Calling Lake and Thunder Lake Provincial Parks from other regions. The Grimshaw, High Prairie and Peace River Provincial Recreation Areas were transferred to the respective town administrations.

The Silver Valley Provincial Recreation Area was transferred to Alberta Transportation and Utilities.

The region constructed a retaining wall adjacent to the peninsula on McLeod Lake at Carson Pegasus Provincial Park.

West Central Region

The West Central Region of the Parks Division administers 15 provincial parks, nine provincial recreation areas, and three wilderness areas. The regional office is in Rimbey.

The private sector continued to be involved in program delivery through contracts for campsite and beach maintenance, metal fabrication, painting, janitorial services, water and sewer systems repairs, pavement repairs, weed control and forest management.

Volunteers contributed over 700 hours as Campground Hosts in various parks and on special interpretive events at Fish Creek, Pigeon Lake and William A. Switzer Provincial Parks. Volunteers also supported the fourth annual Earth Day event at Shannon Terrace Environmental Education Centre in Fish Creek Provincial Park, attracting over 1,200 visitors.

Upgrading projects were undertaken at Aspen Beach, Sikome Lake, William A. Switzer, Thunder Lake and Wabamun Lake Provincial Parks.

Through the Visitor Services events in the parks, over 62,500 persons were contacted. Approximately 1,500 people attended a Winterfest held at Crimson Lake Provincial Park, co-sponsored by the local Lions Club.

East Central Region

The East Central Region administers 16 provincial parks and 27 provincial recreation areas. The regional office is located at Lac La Biche.

Capital upgrading was completed at Sir Winston Churchill and Long Lake Provincial Parks, and at Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Grazing, Wildlife and Provincial Recreation Area. The capital upgrading program continued at Gregoire Lake and Miquelon Lake Provincial Parks.

Forest management programs were implemented at Vermilion, Gooseberry Lake, Dillberry Lake, Whitney Lake and Big Knife Provincial Parks to reduce the impact of forest insect infestation. Private sector contracts provided grass cutting, site maintenance and caretaking.

A local promotional program led to the establishment of a cooperating association at Vermilion Provincial Park. The Friends of Elk Island National Park Society assisted with promotion and project start-up.

The region completed negotiations for the transfer of the Owl River, Lea Park, Stony Lake, Vincent Lake, and Bonnyville Beach Provincial Recreation Areas to private-sector and municipal operators.

Southern Region

The Southern Region administers 17 provincial parks and 11 provincial recreation areas. The regional office is located in Vulcan.

A major upgrading project at Park Lake Provincial Park began in the fall of 1987. It includes the redevelopment of camping and day use facilities, construction of new group use areas, trail development, replacement and relocation of existing utilities and park administration facilities.

The Cypress Hills ski area upgrading was completed. It included a new chair lift, improved parking, and an expanded snow-making facility. The first phase of the Cypress Hills Provincial Park forest management plan was implemented.

A new group use area was developed in Beauvais Lake Provincial Park and is now open for winter and summer use.

To improve boating access to Lake Newell, reconstruction of parking and boat launch facilities was completed at Kinbrook Island Provincial Park.

The region transferred the operation and management of the Travers Dam, Carmangay and Chin Lakes Provincial Recreation Areas to local municipalities.

The Cypress Hills elk management hunt took place during four three-day periods.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Introduction

The Finance and Administration Division provides support to department management in the effective utilization of human resources, financial planning and budgeting, the development and maintenance of office and automated information systems, and the provision of general administrative support.

The division is also responsible for implementing various government-wide systems at the department level. This includes responsibility for the development and review of financial systems, disbursements, revenue and assets accounting, pay and benefits administration, position classification, and various aspects of the employee relations and occupational health and safety programs.

Overview

The 1987-88 fiscal year saw continuing demand for the implementation of department restraint initiatives. Such activities included the development of additional efficiencies through process redefinition and automation, and providing support to senior management in organizational restructuring and the redeployment and training of staff affected by restraint.

A second focus related to the Alberta government's hosting role at the Olympic Winter Games. Activities included the development of policies, systems and procedures specific to the event. As well, several division staff were seconded to the Olympic program to assist with specific operational requirements.

The ratification of a five-year Strategic Electronic Data Processing Plan was an important step in achieving department electronic data processing objectives.

During 1987-88, services were provided through five functional/organizational groups: Financial Planning and Management; Financial Services; Personnel Services; Automated Information Processing Services; and Office and General Administrative Services.

Financial Planning and Management

The Financial Planning and Management Branch supports department managers in developing and managing their annual budgets. Services include consultation in the development of budgets, forecasting expenditures, and the development of department budget submissions and associated briefing materials.

Aside from ongoing activities for the 1987-88 fiscal year, the branch initiated the development of a micro-computer based departmental budget preparation system to be accessed by various branches and up-loaded electronically to the central budget system.

The branch also provided substantial assistance to the Olympic Secretariat in administrative activities required for the Olympic Winter Games.

Financial Services Branch

Financial services are provided through two functional/organizational groups: Financial Services, and Financial Audit.

The Financial Services Branch designs, implements and monitors department financial systems; the pre-audit, processing and accounting of disbursements; the administration of contracts; the administration of revenue, insurance and securities; the maintenance of

trusts, assets and the revolving fund; and the administration of the department pay and benefits program.

The Department Internal Auditor reports to the Department Audit Committee.

Aside from ongoing activities related to pre-audit, processing and accounting functions, activities focused on the review of department and division financial systems, continued documentation of procedures, and implementation of automated systems. Compliance audits were completed through the private sector.

Personnel Services Branch

The Personnel Services Branch provides support to departmental management in the effective utilization of human resource management. The branch is responsible for the implementation of government-wide programs related to classification, recruitment and selection; employee relations; employee performance; staff development and training; and for occupational health and safety.

Aside from the provision of ongoing activities in 1987-88, the branch's main challenge was to continue to assist the department to manage its human resources in an environment of fiscal restraint. In this context, the re-deployment of resources was a key activity. As well, organizational design assistance was provided for the amalgamation of two former organizational divisions.

In staff training and development, an information seminar series strengthened communication practices by supervisory and management staff.

Ongoing supervisory programs emphasizing effective supervisory strategies during periods of restraint were delivered. Staff development continued to provide a career counselling service to employees.

Occupational health and safety efforts resulted in fewer injuries in the workplace. In addition, a comprehensive system was introduced to provide information to workers regarding hazardous materials at the workplace.

Automated Information Processing Services Branch

The Automated Information Processing Services Branch provides information service support in electronic data processing systems and office automation. Services include strategic and operational planning, systems development, implementation and maintenance, and user support.

In 1987-88, the Automated Information Processing Services Branch installed several new systems. Major systems were developed to report on occupational health and safety concerns and to provide information on hosting expenditures, purchase orders, Treasury Board Directives and Ministerial Orders.

A special project provided support to the Olympic Secretariat through the implementation of a tracking report and accounting system for tickets, accommodation, gifts, and clothing allocations for government personnel and guests attending the Olympic Winter Games.

A milestone was set with the completion and approval of a strategic electronic data processing plan which outlined the environment for data processing activities within the department and provided a five year projection for major systems initiatives.

Office and General Administrative Services Branch

The Office and General Administrative Services Branch provides support in the design, development and implementation of office systems; records management; the acquisition and maintenance of office accommodation and equipment; and the provision of office supplies, mail and messenger services.

In addition, the branch provides general administrative support through the maintenance of systems related to assets control; building security and parking; payroll cheque and document distribution; CVS vehicle acquisition; and the administration of the department library.

APPENDICES

1987 – 1988 DEPARTMENT REVENUE SUMMARY

Type of Revenue	Dollar Amount	Dollar Amount
Fees, Licenses and Permits		
CAMPING FEES	2,252,493	
Department of Recreation and Parks		1,677,249
Kananaskis Country		575,244
DISPOSITION FEES	225,541	
Department of Recreation and Parks		225,460
Kananaskis Country		81
SPECIAL USER CENTRE FEES	143,074	
Kananaskis Country		143,074
RECREATION DEVELOPMENT FEES	74,222	74,222
MISCELLANEOUS	160,614	
Department of Recreation and Parks		159,976
Kananaskis Country		638
Other Revenue		
CONCESSION REVENUE	159,256	
Department of Recreation and Parks		83,800
Kananaskis Country		75,456
UTILITIES	31,885	
Department of Recreation and Parks		31,885
Kananaskis Country		nil
RENTALS (Housing and Accommodation)	161,815	
Department of Recreation and Parks		138,908
Kananaskis Country		22,907
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	100,130	
Department of Recreation and Parks		38,306
Kananaskis Country		61,824
PREVIOUS YEAR REFUND	103,183	
Department of Recreation and Parks		93,428
Kananaskis Country		9,755
FEDERAL SALES TAX		
Department of Recreation and Parks	9,389	9,389
TOTAL	3,421,602	3,421,602

APPENDICES

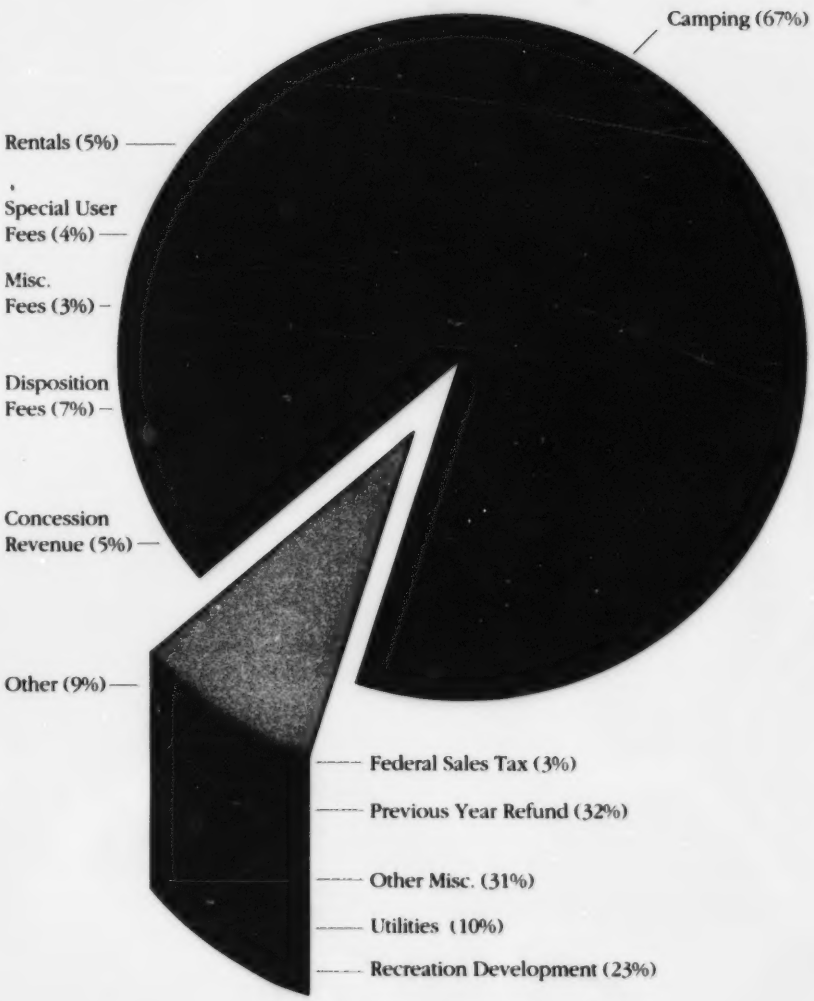
1987-1988 GENERAL REVENUE FUND

SUMMARY OF SUB-PROGRAM TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1988

		1987-88 Estimates	Salary Contingency	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Total Funds Available	Total Expended	Surplus (Deficit)	% Surplus (Deficit)
Department Support									
Vote 1									
1.1	Minister's Office	209,778	-	4,210	0	213,988	208,880	5,108	2.4
1.2	Deputy Minister's Office	240,030	-	0	16,640	223,390	210,277	13,113	5.9
1.3	Planning Secretariat	350,511	-	65,940	20,640	395,811	364,306	31,505	8.0
1.4	Public Communications	72,036	-	32,640	0	104,676	98,204	6,472	6.2
1.5	Financial Services	1,330,004	-	0	34,815	1,295,189	1,213,829	81,360	6.3
1.6	Personnel Services	459,247	-	1,000	0	460,247	456,850	3,397	0.7
1.7	Computing Services	516,031	-	2,600	21,295	497,336	437,846	59,490	12.0
1.8	Office and General Administration	423,363	-	0	13,000	410,363	333,160	77,203	18.8
	Total Vote 1	**3,601,000**	**0**	**106,390**	**106,390**	**3,601,000**	**3,323,352**	**277,648**	**7.7**
Recreation Development									
Vote 2									
2.1	Program Support	869,184	-	0	0	869,184	853,837	15,347	1.8
2.2	Financial Assistance	51,073,941	-	0	0	51,073,941	50,694,808	379,133	0.7
2.3	Community Recreation Development	3,120,716	-	0	0	3,120,716	2,967,574	153,142	4.9
2.4	Provincial Recreation and Sport Development	3,049,159	-	0	0	3,049,159	2,866,881	182,278	6.0
	Total Vote 2	**58,113,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**58,113,000**	**57,383,100**	**729,900**	**1.3**
Provincial Parks									
Vote 3									
3.1	Operations and Maintenance	20,349,899	-	0	17,043	20,332,856	19,559,016	773,840	3.8
3.2	Design and Implementation	4,790,001	-	0	211,557	4,578,444	4,464,662	113,782	2.5
3.3	Parks-Reconstruction	6,510,984	-	46,000	0	6,556,984	6,503,886	53,098	0.8
3.4	Parks-Construction and Redevelopment	1,352,000	-	182,600	0	1,534,600	1,534,516	84	0.0
	Total Vote 3	**33,002,884**	**0**	**228,600**	**228,600**	**33,002,884**	**32,062,080**	**940,804**	**2.9**
The XV Olympic Winter Games 1988									
Vote 4									
4.1	Capital Dev. Coordination	480,905	-	239,096	0	720,001	560,834	159,167	22.1
4.2	Alpine Venue	14,426	-	0	13,111	1,315	300	1,015	77.2
4.3	Nordic Venues	48,785	-	0	48,785	0	0	0	
4.4	University of Calgary Venue	2,550,000	-	0	0	2,550,000	2,550,000	0	0.0
4.5	Operations	549,884	-	0	177,200	372,684	349,741	22,943	6.2
	Total Vote 4	**3,644,000**	**0**	**239,096**	**239,096**	**3,644,000**	**3,460,875**	**183,125**	**5.0**
Kananaskis Country									
Vote 5									
5.1	Program Support	1,638,160	-	0	5,500	1,632,660	1,571,371	61,289	3.8
5.2	Operations and Maintenance	10,127,737	-	0	0	10,127,737	10,061,625	66,112	0.7
5.3	Construction and Redevelopment	1,307,103	-	5,500	0	1,312,603	1,308,168	4,435	0.3
	Total Vote 5	**13,073,000**	**0**	**5,500**	**5,500**	**13,073,000**	**12,941,164**	**131,836**	**1.0**
	Department Totals	**111,433,884**	**0**	**579,586**	**579,586**	**11,433,884**	**109,170,571**	**2,263,313**	**2.0**

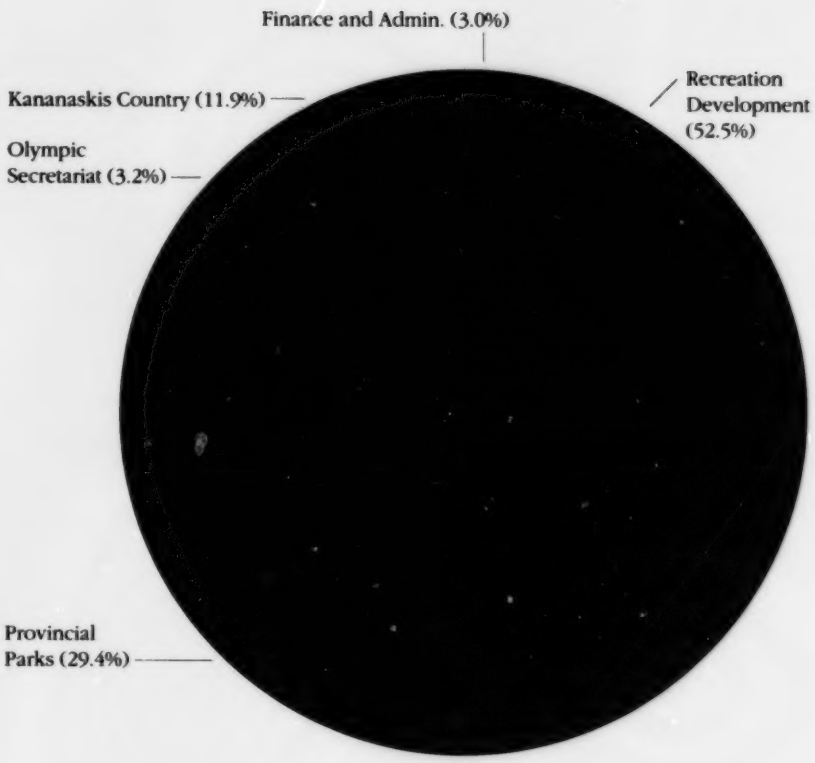
APPENDICES

1987 – 88 REVENUE SOURCES



APPENDICES

1987 – 88 GENERAL REVENUE FUND EXPENDITURES



APPENDICES

1987 – 1988 RECREATION GRANTS

Grant Name	Number	Dollar Amount (in thousands)
International Sport Exchanges	11	107.9
Provincial Recreation Development	20	84.5
Community Recreation/Cultural Grant Program	2,820	38,858.7
Community Recreation Development	70	565.8
Urban Parks – Operations	5	4,603.2
Municipal Recreation/Tourism Area Operations	97	1,551.5
Capital City Park Operations	1	2,198.9
Provincial Recreation and Sport Association Development	114	1,955.8
Outdoors Alberta	1	83.0
Canada Games/Western Canada Games/Arctic Games	28	172.3
National and International Events	50	150.0
Fitness Development	9	175.0
Minister's Office – Miscellaneous Grants	13	17.9
Regional Leisure Lifestyle Festivals	5	24.2
Total – Recreation Development	**3,355**	**50,548.8**
Municipal Recreation/Tourism Areas – Capital	28	2,000.0
Heritage Savings Trust Fund Total	**28**	**2,000.0**
Grand Total	**3,383**	**52,548.8**

APPENDICES

1987-1988 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES

The following list describes the major capital expenditures to project work undertaken during the 1987-88 fiscal year for each budget element.

Upgrading Projects – $5,900,989.00

Beauvais Lake
- Construction of group and day use area.

Dinosaur
- Construction of an overflow parking lot.

Sir Winston Churchill
- Upgrading of roads, boat launch, trails, new park buildings and sewage dumping station.

William A. Switzer
- Construction of a new park, buildings, roads, utility systems and campground upgrading.

Aspen Beach
- Construction of new park administration building and upgrading of Lakeview Campground.

Gregoire Lake
- Planning and design for park upgrading and construction of walking trails and viewpoint.

Kinbrook Island
- Construction of a new boat launch and beach area.

Long Lake
- Completion of a new shower building, campground upgrading and horticulture establishment.

Park Lake
- Completion of detailed design and construction of utility services.

Wabamun
- Detailed design and phase I construction of campground upgrading.

Police Outpost
- Detailed design for campground upgrading.

Rochon Sands
- Completion of campground upgrading, trails, playground and viewpoint.

Thunder Lake
- New water system, roads, boat launch, parking areas and campground.

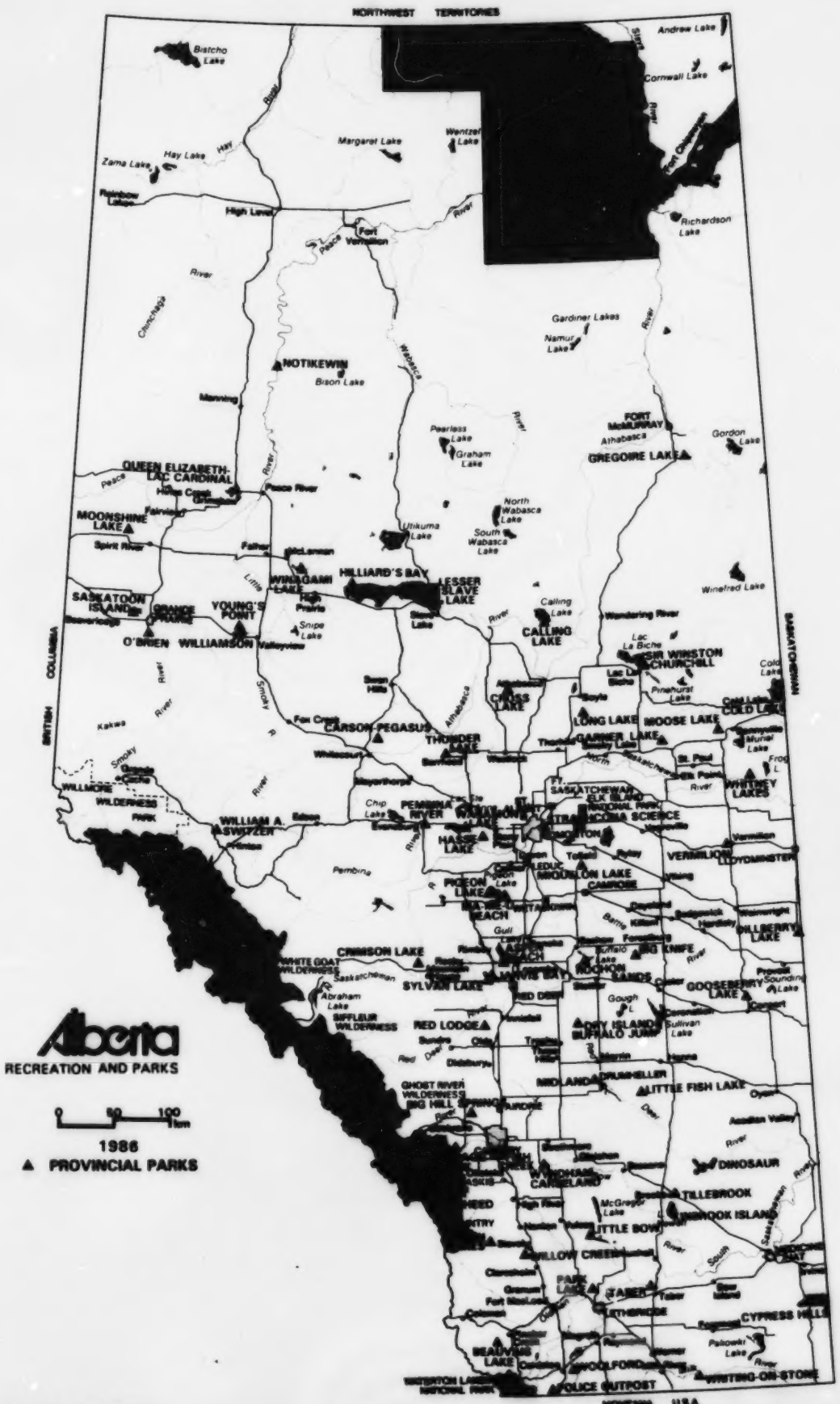
Franchere Bay
- New pumphouse, dump station, boat launch and site development in day use/beach area.

Major Replacement – $574,415.00

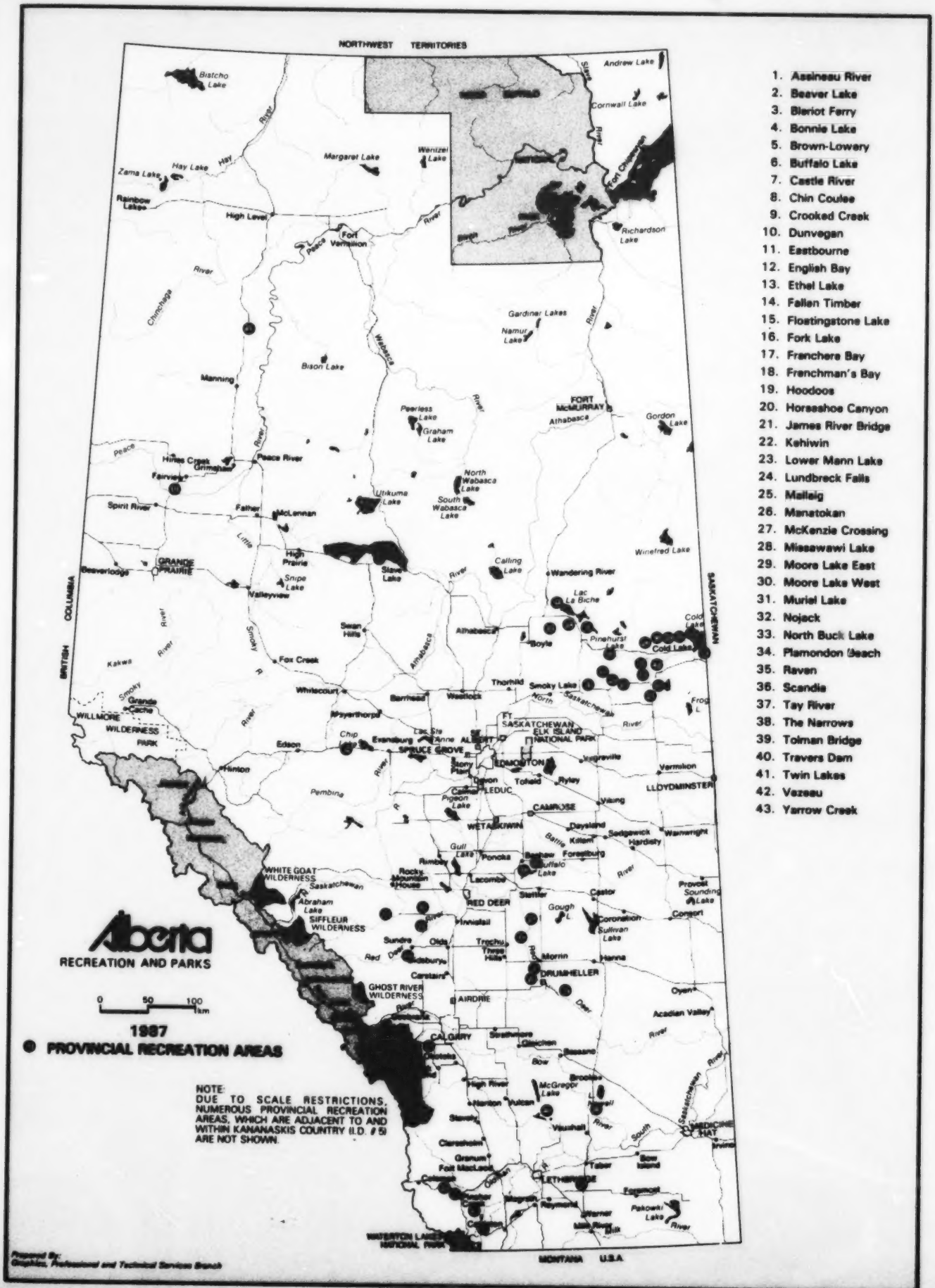
Expenditures involved replacement or repair of specific facilities system-wide, where funding was not part of upgrading. Work included utility installations, building improvements, road work, fence construction, playground equipment installation, self registration vaults and sign replacement.

Park Construction and Redevelopment – $1,534,516.00

Cypress Hills
- Continuation of ski hill construction, chair lifts and utility installation.



Prepared By:
Graphics, Professional and Technical Services Branch
Design and Implementation Division


NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
Alberta
RECREATION AND PARKS
0 50 100 km
1987
PROVINCIAL RECREATION AREAS
NOTE:
DUE TO SCALE RESTRICTIONS, NUMEROUS PROVINCIAL RECREATION AREAS, WHICH ARE ADJACENT TO AND WITHIN KANANASKIS COUNTRY (L.D. # 5) ARE NOT SHOWN.
Prepared By:
Graphics, Professional and Technical Services Branch
MONTANA U.S.A.
SASKATCHEWAN
BRITISH COLUMBIA
1. Assineau River
2. Beaver Lake
3. Bleriot Ferry
4. Bonnie Lake
5. Brown-Lowery
6. Buffalo Lake
7. Castle River
8. Chin Coulee
9. Crooked Creek
10. Dunvegan
11. Eastbourne
12. English Bay
13. Ethel Lake
14. Fallen Timber
15. Flostingstone Lake
16. Fork Lake
17. Frenchere Bay
18. Frenchman's Bay
19. Hoodoos
20. Horseshoe Canyon
21. James River Bridge
22. Kehiwin
23. Lower Mann Lake
24. Lundbreck Falls
25. Mallaig
26. Manatokan
27. McKenzie Crossing
28. Missawawi Lake
29. Moore Lake East
30. Moore Lake West
31. Muriel Lake
32. Nojack
33. North Buck Lake
34. Plamondon Beach
35. Raven
36. Scandia
37. Tay River
38. The Narrows
39. Tolman Bridge
40. Travers Dam
41. Twin Lakes
42. Vezeau
43. Yarrow Creek